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# Al Qaida In Iraq Gets A Big Score

**NEW YORK TIMES (July 30):** Jailbreaks are common in Iraq, but the brazen assaults on the prisons at Abu Ghraib and Taji last week are in a class by themselves. The attacks freed perhaps as many as 800 militants, who are now sought by Interpol as a "major threat" to global security. The attacks showed the fearsome and growing strength of Al Qaida in Iraq, seemingly on the decline only a few years ago. They also raised new questions about the effectiveness of Iraq's authoritarian prime minister, Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, as well as the stability of Iraq itself.

Al Qaida in Iraq, an affiliate of Al Qaida, waged a virulent insurgency that brought the country to the brink of civil war in 2006 and 2007, then suffered major defeats at the hands of Iraqi tribal groups and American troops. It has since rebounded and is believed largely responsible for a surge in daily bombings that have killed an estimated 700 people this month alone.

The Abu Ghraib and Taji operations were synchronized and sophisticated. ...

Oddly, having spent so much money strengthening Iraq's security forces administration officials have said little, publicly or privately, about why in this case their investment failed so spectacularly.

Iraq is a sovereign country, responsible for its own security. But Iraq might have been better able to repel Al Qaida if Maliki and the Americans had worked harder on a deal to keep a token number of troops in the country to continue helping with training and intelligence-gathering. Not surprising, Maliki's interest in such an arrangement has grown; Army Special Operations and the C.I.A. reportedly have small units in the country to assist in counterterrorism activities.

Regional volatility, including the Syrian war and Iran, are compounding Iraq's instability. But the core problem is Maliki, whose monopoly power and favoritism for his Shiite majority brethren over other groups have inflamed sectarian tensions. In particular, he never made good on promises to reintegrate minority Sunnis, banished from power after Saddam Hussein's ouster, into the political and economic life of the country. This has made Al Qaida in Iraq and other insurgents more appealing to resentful Sunnis.

Administration officials, as they should, are working behind the scenes to calm political disputes among Maliki and Sunni and Kurdish leaders and to create better relations between Iraq and other countries in the region. But absent a complete change of heart and approach by Maliki, Iraqis and their country will remain dangerously fractured.

# ON THIS DATE

**By The Associated Press** Today is Thursday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2013. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 1, 1913, the Joyce Kilmer poem "Trees" was first published in "Poetry: A Magazine of Verse."

On this date: In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I. In 1876, Colorado was admitted

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical di-

Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1933, the National Recovery Administration's "Blue Eagle" symbol began to appear in store windows and on packages to show support for the National Industrial Recovery Act.

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over Adolf Hit IJy. In 1943, rioting broke out in New York City's Harlem neighborhood after a false rumor spread that a police officer had shot and killed a black U.S. Army soldier who in fact had only been wounded; six people were killed in the violence. In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing. In 1957, the United States and Canada agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on a shooting rampage at the University of Texas in Austin, killing 14 people. Whitman, who had also murdered his wife and mother hours earlier, was gunned down by police.

into a military hospital near Chechnya, killing 50 people, including Russian troops wounded in Chechnya.

Five years ago: Some 30 mountaineers began a disastrous attempt to scale K2 in Pakistan; 11 of them died in a series of accidents, including icefalls. Crowds of Chinese watched a total solar eclipse along the country's ancient Silk Road, one week before the start of the Summer Games in Beijing.

One year ago: President Barack Obama made his rival's personal mil-lions a front-and-center issue in the race for the White House, telling a swing-state audience in Ohio that Mitt Romney "is asking you to pay more so that people like him can get a big tax cut." Four teams from China. South Korea and Indonesia were kicked out of the women's badminton doubles at the London Olympics for trying to lose on purpose. Host country Britain in its first when Helen Glover and Heather Stanning won the final of the women's pair at the rowing regatta and cyclist Bradley Wiggins took the time trial. Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Geoffrey Holder is 83. Singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott is 82. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., is 76. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 71. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rov Williams is 63. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 60. Singer Michael Penn is 55. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 54. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 53. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 53. Actor Jesse Borrego is 51. Actor Demian Bichir is 50. Rapper Coolio is 50. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 50. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 49. Movie director Sam Mendes is 48. Country singer George Ducas is 47. Country musician Charlie Kelley is 45. Actress Jennifer Gareis is 43. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 41. Actress Tempestt Bledsoe is 40. Actor Jason Momoa is 34. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 32. Actress Taylor Fry is 32. Actor Elijah Kelley is 27. Actor James Francis Kellv is 24 Thought for Today: "Pride, like humility, is destroyed by one's insis-tence that he possesses it." - Kenneth Bancroft Clark. American educator and psychologist (1914-2005).

ager in Amy Nelson. Like any cit-

izen, I may not always agree

with them (if their decisions

to make Yankton a safe and

wholesome place for all of us.

And we owe them a great big

great people who work in our

local historical society. Their

ceaseless efforts have lead to

the eventual restoration of the

grounds, which will be a palatial

showplace to house our local

and state history. Pictures of

indicate it will be a model for

historical societies throughout

the country, and a great attrac-

enjoy, and learn about our city

You have to admit, we live in

a great little town. So let's all do

our part to keep it that way.

tion for visitors to browse,

and state history.

their anticipated improvements

Mead Building on the HSC

I also have to point out the

thanks for that.

happen to go against me) but I

acknowledge they try their best



# **Evil Never Sleeps**

Michael

REAGAN

#### BY MICHAEL REAGAN CagleCartoons.com

Rush Limbaugh fielded a phone call the other day that even he couldn't answer.

"What's happened to the country I live in?" asked the frustrated woman.

"And what do we do now?" The Great Rushbo was under-

standably flustered.

Coming up with a cure for what ails America after five years of Barack Obama and decades of bigger and stupider and meaner Big Government in D.C. is not something you can do off the top of your head.

The woman's question reminded me of a question Newt Gingrich posed to me about five years ago.

"Mike," he said, "how is it that our side can elect great conservatives like your father and Margaret Thatcher but then after we win those elections

everything seems to fall apart?" What Newt said about conservatives squandering their biggest victories is true. My father's glorious conservative revolution of 1980 is largely undone today, washed away by

30 years of higher taxes, more regulations and a weak-kneed foreign policy. Even Newt himself is an example of the problem accountives have had in not being

problem conservatives have had in not being able to take full advantage of their greatest victories.

He was able to foment his own mini-revolution in Congress in 1994. For a while, as Republicans took control of the House for the first time since the Korean War, it looked like half a century of executive power and federal after we win big elections or defeat the Soviet Union, we can go home and savor our victories.

We think after we win our big fights, it's the end of the game. Welfare reform passes —

game over. Berlin Wall falls — game over. We won, you lost — game over. But liberals and progressives understand the power game. They know it never really ends. What conservatives see as a victorious ending — the takeover of the House or the election of George W. Bush — liber-

als and progressives see as just the beginning. The other side never stops fight-

ing. When Scott Brown won that special U.S. Senate election in Massachusetts to fill Ted Kennedy's seat in 2010, conservatives were dancing in the streets because they had won their 60th vote to stop Oba-

macare. Conservatives thought Brown's shocking win was the end and went home. The liberals knew it was just the beginning of a tough fight. What did we get in the end? Obamacare. Plus U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

If we conservatives want to win the day and prevent liberals and progressives from undermining our way of life, sinking us in a sea of debt and turning us into a socialist Banana Republic, we have to never stop fighting.

Evil never sleeps. Nor do its practitioners in Washington and in our state capitals. If we want good to triumph over evil in the long run, we have to learn to see our big victories not as the end of the fight but the beginning of the rest of the battle.

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1-year .....\$186.33 \* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates In 1973, the movie "American Graffiti," directed by George Lucas, first opened.

In 1988, conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh began broadcasting his nationally syndicated radio program.

In 2007, the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber rammed a truck filled with explosives

### FROM THE BIBLE

He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. John 3:31. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

#### YOUR LETTERS

# **A Great Town**

#### Mike Covey, Yankton

Riding my bike through Riverside Park the other day baseball game going on; girls' softball game, people coming and going via the boat ramp, park full of parents and kids enjoying the lovely day. I remarked to a man and his wife on a motorcycle "we sure live in a beautiful little town." He agreed.

But like any little Midwestern town, it's not just the lovely scenery (greatly enhanced by the efforts of city engineer Kevin Kuhl and others) it's the people who really make a place special. And we have a great many nice friendly wonderful people in Yankton who I'm proud to call friends and neighbors.

In particular, we have an outstanding police force headed by Chief Brian Paulsen. And a young enthusiastic City Manover-reach were finally going to be checked, if not rolled back. But then Newt's historic and inspiring con-

servative resurrection fizzled.

The 54 new Republican rebels who helped Newt "take over" the House, as the liberal media liked to say, forced Clinton to reform welfare and kept federal spending in check at least until Congress let Bush II and Obama open the floodgates and drown us and our grandchildren's grandchildren in debt.

I think I've figured out what the problem with conservatives is. We don't understand the rules of the political power game. We think Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and

www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter. Mike's column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

# Anthony Weiner Must Go

# BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

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Dear Anthony Weiner: Just go.

Don't bother to explain. We've already heard enough.

Just go. Don't write a book about it. No tree

should die for that. Just go.

Don't do a sit down with Oprah. She just had that couch cleaned. Just go.

You want to redeem your name through public service? You want to use your gifts to help those in need? Wonderful. Very commendable. And Somalia is lovely this time of year. Make sure you get your shots.

Now, can you just go? Please?

Does it surprise you to hear that? Well, I am equally surprised to say it. America, after all, is the land of redemption, second chances and comebacks. We love nothing so much as the guy who beats long odds, the underdog who achieves the improbable, the loser who wins. That's who we are. It is woven into our DNA. Our national history begins with a ragtag group of farmers defeating the mightiest military on Earth.

The problem is, you remind us of something else that lately seems to be woven into our DNA: an incapacity for shame.

You won't know that word. It came into use before the 12th century, but you don't hear it much anymore. Merriam-Webster defines it as "a painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety." One sees little evidence of that consciousness in reality television, cable news, politics — or you. Taking care to pinch both nostrils shut, let us review the record:

After you tweeted an image of your sheathed but erect penis, after you lied and said you had done no such thing, after you finally copped to the truth, after your humiliated wife stood beside you, after you resigned from Congress in disgrace, after you went through therapy, after you posed with your wife and baby for People magazine last year and pronounced yourself committed to being a "better person," we learn that you were still sending out explicit text messages and pictures all along.

One of your sexting partners, a woman less than half your 48 years, was last seen, according to TMZ, leaving the offices of a pornographic movie producer. How much you want to bet the call is already out for a beak-nosed man with curly hair to, ahem ... "act" with her?

Meanwhile, you have the scrotal audacity to come before the voters of the nation's largest city and ask for a second chance.

There are no words.

The stunning arrogance of you, the pathetic, ridiculous recklessness of you, are too breathtaking for words. Even in a nation where human hound dogs in public office have become sadly routine, you stand alone.

It should tell you something that the Clintons — that includes Monica Lewinsky's old boyfriend, Bill — are said to be disgusted by you. And that Eliot Spitzer — the New York governor whose career went boom because he patronized prostitutes — says he wouldn't vote for you. That's like a Kardashian calling you superficial.

It's up to New York City, of course, to pass judgment on you. But forgive the rest of us for being gobsmacked at your behavior, suggesting as it does that we now live in a nation where shame is rarer than a vampire's T-bone steak.

It gets a bad rap, but a little shame is a good thing now and again. It will keep you from making an a- of yourself. Or, if you already have, it'll keep you from repeating the mistake.

You could use a little shame. Why not take this time to go find some? Don't worry; we'll handle everything on this end.

We'll sweep up for you. We'll turn off the lights. We'll take out the trash. You just need to do the one thing. Please, for your sake and for ours: Just go.

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